

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for producing a β -aminoketone, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a conjugate addition reaction between an α,β -unsaturated ketone compound and a carbamate compound is carried out to synthesize the β -aminoketone, and a salt or a hydrate salt of a transition metal of Groups 7 to 11 of the Periodic Table of Elements is present in the reaction system as a catalyst.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method for producing a β -aminoketone of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the salt or the hydrate salt of the transition metal is a halide, a perhalogenate, or a hydrate thereof.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method for producing a β -aminoketone of claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transition metal is at least one chosen from the group consisting of Fe, Ru, Rh, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, and Au.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A catalyst for a conjugate addition reaction of a nitrogen nucleophile to an α,β -unsaturated compound, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the catalyst is a salt or a hydrate salt of a transition metal of Groups 7 to 11 of the Periodic Table of Elements.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The catalyst of claim ~~[[3]]~~4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the salt or the hydrate salt of the transition metal is a halide, a perhalogenate, or a hydrate thereof.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The catalyst of claim 4 or 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transition metal is at least one chose from the group consisting of Fe, Ru, Rh, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, and Au.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The catalyst of ~~any one of claims 4 to 6, characterized in that~~ claim 4 or 5, wherein the catalyst is used for a conjugate addition reaction of a carbamate compound to an α,β -unsaturated ketone compound.

8. **(New)** The catalyst of claim 6, wherein the catalyst is used for a conjugate addition reaction of a carbamate compound to an α,β -unsaturated ketone compound.